

SMALL GROUP

01/12/99

Meeting Highlights
CALFED Agency Meeting
January 12, 1999

Next Meeting : January 26, 1999 9:30 to noon

(Next meeting may be rescheduled due to conflict with legislative hearing)

1. 99 Critical Actions and Process

- **Organization chart.** A list of critical issues was distributed with a proposed organization chart. The organization chart showed a revised process modeled after the Quinn/Spear and DNCT model. Comments provided that emphasized the following features in order to make the process work:
 - Need forcing function
 - Need topic and task to be relevant to attract and maintain appropriate level of participation
 - Need high level of support and direction from top levels (IE Babbitt creating the Quinn/Spear Group)
 - Need right stakeholder involvement
 - Need right staff support/ internal champion

Action: For next meeting staff will further refine the process and teams needed for each critical issue, clarify the objective of each team, and develop a time line.
- **Strategic Plans** are a new work item for most of the program elements. Questions were raised about the objective of the plans. While a consistent approach needs to be developed, the emphasis of each Strategic Plan needs to be on implementation of the program.
- **Governance.** Agencies supported the need to move forward with the governance issue. CALFED and CALFED agencies need to take a more active role proposing appropriate government structures and being ready to advise the legislature.

Action: CALFED will get copies and distribute the Machado informal draft legislation to the agency small group.

Action: Governance will be on next small group agenda. Staff were asked to identify the issues on governance and possible governance structures. Comments included: reviewing the conservancy model for ERP, ways to streamline operations and contracts, need a state and federal overall CALFED structure but a state-only for ERP is probably appropriate, and need to involve other legislators.
- **Water Management Strategy.**

Action: Staff will work internally and with DWR staff to identify an approach for addressing the supply/demand--Bull 160 issues .
- **Financing.** Request made by several agencies to use the USBR staff to develop an overview and broader context for the financing section of the program.

- **404/401.** No new stakeholder process yet. First clarify process and issues internally between key CALFED agencies.
- **South Delta Improvements.** CALFED staff emphasized the need to take actions in 1999 to provide for early implementation of South Delta Improvements in Stage I. Staff provided a handout, *South Delta Improvement Issues-draft*. One topic was discussed concerning the link and coordination between the Tracy Fish Facility Team and DNCT/DEFT recommendations.
- **Transfers.** Jerry Johns raised concerns on the language in the Phase II Report regarding a strategic plan, and rules and regulations. Clarification was provided that the rules and regulations were not intended to be required by the time of the ROD.
Action: CALFED will work with those agencies that drafted the final transfers language in the Phase II Report to understand the intent and will provide clarifying language at the next meeting.
- **Schedule for EIR/EIS.**
Action: It was agreed that staff should develop a revised schedule for the next small group meeting to review which moves the release of a public draft to later in 1999 but not too close to December 1999. Need to also develop "momentum markers" to maintain the attention of agencies and stakeholders if the release later.
- **Bundles.**
Action: Need to develop a process to refine the concept and approach of bundles. Mary Schoonover and Tom Hagler were identified as possible staff to begin the effort.

2. CMARP

- *Action:* The draft release of the CMARP plan will have a transmittal letter from Lester.
- *Action:* A management work team needs to be established to provide closer review and coordination with the technical work teams to increase the link with the CALFED program.
- *Action:* An expert panel needs to be established to provide input on the monitoring process and how to establish a clear line of communication between monitoring information and scientists and the decision makers, under the constraints of a finite budget. USBR expressed desire for the expert panel before the report is finalized in February but the timing seems difficult.

3. Environmental Water Acquisition Funding

- *Action:* The \$14.5 million in federal 1998 funds will continue to be reserved for environmental water acquisition purposes. Dave Fullerton, Brendt and other staff should prepare a more detailed description of how to use the funds in 1999. This description needs to be provided for the next small group meeting.